



Title	Historical relationships between Macau Pidgin Portuguese and Chinese Pidgin English: a view from pronouns
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Citation	The 2013 Summer Conference of the Society for Pidgin and Creole Linguistics (SPCL) and Annual Meeting of the Associação de Crioulos de Base Lexical Portuguesa e Espanhola (ACBLPE), Lisbon, Portugal, 19-21 June 2013. In Conference Booklet, 2013, p. 85-86
Issued Date	2013
URL	http://hdl.handle.net/10722/185354
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SPCL SESSION 5	Thursday, 20

Two important contact varieties emerged as a result of trade between Chinese and foreigners: Macau Pidgin Portuguese (MPP) and Chinese Pidgin English (CPE). This paper presents the forms and functions of pronouns, in particular first person pronouns in these two trade pidgins used to be spoken in southern China. Many historical accounts and linguistic studies have indicated the use of a pidgin Portuguese variety during the early period of China trade (Anson 1748, Tryon, Mühlhäusler & Baker 1996). Some even suggest historical relationships between this pidgin and Chinese Pidgin English (Holm 1989). Scarcity of pidgin Portuguese data prevents previous studies from establishing concrete examples of connections between the two varieties linguistically. With the availability of a new source on Macau Pidgin Portuguese, it is now possible to examine the linguistic interactions between MPP and CPE. The example examined in this paper is the forms and functions of their pronoun.

An important finding is that both pidgins use the possessive forms for similar functions. In MPP, a variety of forms are attested for first person pronouns. Among them are the possessive determiners, *meu* and marginally *minha*. In CPE, *my* is attested to serve subject, object and possessive functions. The following sentences show the use of *meu* in MPP (1) and *my* in CPE (Li, Matthews & Smith 2005) in (2).

- | | |
|---|--|
| (1a) <i>meu</i> sabe
‘I know’ | (2a) <i>my</i> wantchee build one houso
‘I want to build a house’ |
| (1b) <i>fala polo meu</i>
‘tell me’ | (2b) You give <i>my</i> one piecee receipt
‘You give me a receipt’ |
| (1c) <i>sang meu casa</i>
‘(this) is my house’ | (2c) that belong <i>my</i> duty
‘It is my duty’ |

Cross-linguistically, it is uncommon for Portuguese-based or English-based pidgins and creoles to adopt the possessive determiners as subject and object pronouns. For example, Macau Creole Portuguese uses *iou* and *nos* for both subject and object functions (Fernandes & Baxter. 2004). In CPE, although English *I* and *me* are also

attested for distinct grammatical functions, the most frequently attested form in both English language and Chinese language sources is the possessive *my* (Smith 2008).

This study aims to investigate shared grammatical features between MPP and CPE beyond their lexical connections. The comparison of MPP and CPE's pronouns not only demonstrates their close historical relationships, but may also shed light on the historical development of CPE. (385)

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